

City of Newton



Setti D. Warren
Mayor

November 16, 2010 AGENDA

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Newton

www.ci.newton.ma.us/building/projects.htm#sustain

Telephone (617) 796-1605
C/o Public Buildings Department
52 ELLIOT STREET
NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461-1605

Members: Peter Smith (Chair), Brooke K. Lipsitt

Member Organizations

Green Decade Coalition/Newton, League of Women Voters, Newton Conservators,
Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce, Charles River Watershed Association
Newton Eco-Team Project

Member City Committees

Energy Commission, Mayor's Advisory Committee on Renewable Resources,
Recycling Committee

Member City Departments

Board of Aldermen, Parks and Recreation, Planning and Development, Public Works
Public Schools, Public Buildings

The next meeting of Sustainable Newton will be held on:

- Tuesday morning, November 16, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.
- Room 202, second floor, Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue

CONFERENCING FOR MEETING:

Dial-In 1-218-862-1300 Bridge: 463394 (Long distance call to Minnesota)

Agenda: (and any other business properly brought to the Committee's meeting)

Unfinished Business to be Discussed

Green Decade [School Outreach Committee](#)

Communication received from Bob Warren outlining their future possible action items:
Food services issues, food purchasing, supply, waste, composting and overall waste
reduction in the food services sector in the schools.

Film series, Public education on sustainability and food, "How Low Can You Go"

Bike policies in Newton and the schools specifically.

"Big Tent": social networking as a resource sharing site for green ideas in the schools.

LWV and CRWA water forums September 21 and October 26 at Main Library.

www.lwvnewton.org

Plastic Shopping Bags

www.wickedlocal.com/newton/opinion/opinion_columnists/x1664760375/Leary-Give-plastic-bags-the-sack

(Guest column by Alison Leary)

www.dailykos.com/story/2010/6/9/874543/-Bye-Bye-Plastic-Bags

www.nytimes.com/gwire/2009/04/23/23greenwire-new-bottle-deposit-and-bag-tax-bills-touted-fo-10641.html

Status of David Del Porto's communications with Executive Department

Follow-up discussion on meetings by Mayor Warren with Chairs of Energy Commission and Solid
Waste Commission.

Agenda continued on page 2

Sustainability/Environmental Policies for City Departments

Models for development of policies by departments and next steps.

MONTHLY UPDATE/REPORTS BY City committee's, departments, and represented NGO's

- 1) www.newtoncoteams.org/default.aspx Newton Eco-Team Project
- 2) www.ci.newton.ma.us/DPW/recycling/single%20stream/default30.htm Public works
- 3) www.lwnnewton.org Environmental Committee initiatives
- 4) www.nnchamber.com Energy and environment committee.
- 5) www.greendecade.org/schooloutreach.html GDC/N school outreach committee.
- 6) www.greendecade.org/highperfbuild.html High Performance Building Coalition
- 7) www.ci.newton.ma.us/building/projects.htm#sunergy Renewable Resources Committee.
- 8) www.ci.newton.ma.us/building/projects.htm#energycommission Energy Commission
- 9) www.ci.newton.ma.us/DPW/recycling/default.asp Recycling Committee.
- 10) www.ci.newton.ma.us City Departments: Aldermen, Parks, Planning, Buildings, Schools, Public Works.

October 19 Meeting Report

Mayor's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Newton

The regular monthly meeting of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Sustainable Newton was held on Tuesday Morning, October 19, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 202, second floor, Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Ave.

Attending: Peter Smith (Chair), Sharyn Roberts, Emma Heffern and David Tannozzini.

- 1) September meeting notes reviewed and accepted as minutes.
- 2) Peter apprised the committee that Don Johnson is the new Chamber President.
- 3) The Chamber's Green Solutions at the Harvest Fair was a great success. Peter noted the help from Green Decade (Marcia Cooper). He was disappointed Gro-Solar that provided \$600 for a corner table did not show up. Neither did Sunlight Solar. Peter estimated the traffic was at least 4,000 visitors and Chamber donated \$2K to Newton Pride. There were 47 exhibitors.
- 4) The history of Sustainable Newton was discussed as possible reorganization continues to be discussed.
- 5) School Outreach Committee of GDC discussion ensued as David T. thought they may be a good NGO partner. Their focus is presently on recycling and using sustainable product in Newton's schools. Sharyn noted an example would be to use cardboard containers instead of Styrofoam. "Compostible cardboard, Bio-plastic spoons, forks made of corn starch are now viable options. Bob Warren chairs the school outreach committee.
- 6) Sharyn reported the September Water Forum was standing room only. October 26 is the second forum.
- 7) Plastic shopping bags. The committee discussed whether to remove this from the agenda. It was decided to keep the item for further study. Don Johnson, President of the Charles River Water Association may be interested in pursuing. Sharyn noted the issue may become a State-wide debate. She noted plastic (water/juice) bottles are as big a problem as disposal plastic bags.

PLANNING RESOURCES (NOT PART OF AGENDA)

Recommendations for Newton's Green Building Policies

May, 2010 report: "This report represents the work of four WPI undergraduate students submitted to the faculty as evidence of completion of a degree requirement. WPI routinely publishes these reports on its web site without editorial or peer review."

Green Communities – Guidelines for Qualifying as a Green Community:

(www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/gca/FINAL%20GC%20Qual%20Criteria%2071009.pdf)

Sustainable Waste Management Collaborative (SWMC) presentation by Architect Jay Walter. Recommendation is Mr. Walter contact Board of Alderman Public Facilities Committee Chair [Alderman Sydra Schnipper](#). Action: referred to [Solid Waste Commission](#). (02/09)

David Del Porto's 12/23/08 letter to Mayor Cohen Recycling in public buildings. (SN1208)

Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) (SN1108)

Communication received from Kevin Dutt introducing Professor Kent Portney of the CAG. Per August meeting: Mike Kruse discussed his meeting with "Citizen Advisory Group" member Kent Portney. They discussed Sustainable City Practices. Mike apprised the committee of Professor Portney's bio and how he could be a valuable resource for the committee.

From www.ci.newton.ma.us/CitizenAdvisoryGroup/Member%20Biographies.pdf :

"**Kent Portney** – Kent Portney is a Professor of Political Science at Tufts University. He has written extensively and conducted research on issues of local sustainability policies and programs in cities across the United States. His book *Taking Sustainable Cities Seriously: Economic Development, the Environment, and Quality of Life in American Cities*, was published by MIT Press in 2003 Mr. Portney has lived in Newton for 22 years."

www.epa.gov/sustainability/, www.ci.pasadena.ca.us/permitcenter/greencity/home_green.asp,

www.sustainable.org/information/aboutsuscom.html,

www.smartcommunities.ncat.org/management/tensteps.shtml

www.esdtoolkit.org/resources/web_sd.htm

Charles River Watershed Association (www.cwra.org)